**Summary of proposed revisions to the Standing Rules of Presbytery**

**May 14, 2015**

**SR-3.0103b –** insert “chair of the Board of Trustees” in the first line following committee moderators

“Ruling elders serving as commission or committee moderators, *chair of the Board of Trustees*, members of the ….”

**SR-3.0103d2 –** insert “active” between of and ruling elders

Determine the total number of *active* ruling elders allotted by SR-3.0103a.

**SR-3.0103d3 –** insert “a ruling elder who is chair of the Board of Trustees” in the third line after service;

…of service; *a ruling elder who is chair of the Board of Trustees*; ruling elders commissioned to a particular church or other validated ministry; ……

**SR-4.0102 –** insert *D-11.0700* in the third line after G-3.0305

**SR-6.02 -**last paragraph (the first paragraph after Rationale. Insert the word *either* before chaired in the third sentence and the words *“or reporting to Council through a member liaison” in the same sentence*

*..committees (either* ***chaired*** *by voting members of the Executive Council* ***or reporting to Council through a member liaison,*** and task teams (ordinarily …….

**SR-602 –** Add a one sentence paragraph

*The Executive Council shall recruit a Mission and Outreach Coordinator who shall report directly to Council and have such duties as Council assigns in keeping with its Mission.*

**SR-6.0206b** add the word “ordinarily” between would and serve in the second sentence

…Council, two of whom would  *ordinarily serve as moderators of the personnel and finance committees of the …..*

**ADD an SR-6.0209** *The Executive Council may take electronic votes if an item for council action is best addressed before its next meeting. (See Appendix IV)*

**SR-6.0302 Commission on Ministry**

After the first paragraph, add the following paragraph

*The Commission may divide functions among its membership into Pastoral Relationships and Congregational Relationships as detailed in the current*

*Advisory Handbook for Ministry and the Handbook entitled, On Calling a Pastor.*

*(Rationale: Dividing responsibilities between members into these two major categories will allow for a more proactive ministry with our congregations and better support pastoral leadership. It distributes more evenly the work of the Commission among the 18 members.)*

**SR-6.0302 c** - **NOTE reference correction**. Should be (G-2.0508) corrected from G-2.6508.

**SR-6.0302e** add to the end of the sentence *and stay in regular contact with each assigned church session as needed throughout each year.*

e. Visit with each session of the presbytery at least once each year. (G-3.0303 and G-3.0307) *and stay in regular contact with each church session as needed throughout each year.*

**SR-6.0302g** – in the second sentence delete the words “other denominations” and insert *another Christian Church after constitutional requirements have been met.*

g. Counsel with churches regarding temporary pastoral relations, providing lists of available teaching elders, ruling elders and ministers of *another Christian Church after constitutional requirements have been met (G-2.0504b) (G-2.0505) (G2.0506), to supply pulpits.* (Rationale: *Wording better states the position of the cited references)*

**SR-6.0302** add a SR-6.0302r

r. Provide a support system and a visitation program for retired teaching elders inactive because of health problems.

**SR-6.0401 –** Change reference in second sentence and add sentence at end of paragraph.

The Board of Trustees shall fulfill all those duties and responsibilities in the Book of Order (4.00 – 4.020*8) (change 5 to 8 in this reference).* The Board of Trustees shall be composed of nine persons elected by the Presbytery through the Committee on Nominating and Representation. *The Board will appoint its own Chair from among the membership elected.*

***SR-6.0401a*** *Has Presbytery authority to list and negotiate any property transactions assigned in accordance with G-4.0205 of the Book of Order.*

Add an e, f, and g to this section

e. Presbytery has directed that any contract, loan, or grant entered into by Presbytery over the amount of $5,000 will require the signature of at least one trustee. Further that any contract, loan, or grant regarding real property requires trustee signatures in accordance with the above provisions of the Book of Order.

f. Presbytery has approved a “fast-track” process for routine property matters, stating as follows: “If authorized by the Board of Trustees and the Executive Council, a Standing Commission of Presbytery may be authorized to make decisions on behalf of presbytery for real property matters valued under $25,000 and/or due to mandatory governmental jurisdiction. The protection of church and presbytery financial interest will be the Trustee’s primary concern in all such approval.

g. Presbytery approval has been given the trustees to advise sessions and Administrative Commissions on how church property is handled and the procedures for approving encumbrances, dissolving or dismissing a church in accordance with Appendix III of these Standing Rules noting that costs associated with the activities involved shall be paid by the individual church.

***APPENDIX III***

***Property Encumbrances/Dismissal Procedures***

***(Approved by Presbytery 11-20-2014)***

***Reference SR-6.0401g***

***Procedures for Church Real Property, Loans, Mortgages, Leases, or Sells:***

***(1) Review the church deed noting any restrictions of use***

***(2) Review a Title policy noting any encumbrances with restrictions***

***(3) Verify with local tax authority for consequences if change of use***

***(4) Have specific property surveyed and contract drafted by legal counsel***

***(5) Approved by session and a duly constituted congregational meeting***

***(CAUTION: contracts cannot be finalized until next item complete)***

***(6) Have encumbrance reviewed by presbytery trustees, noting that property transactions may require presbytery approval***

***(7) Have a real estate qualified attorney record the appropriate documents at the county courthouse***

***Procedures for Dissolving or Dismissing a Church with Property:***

***DEED: Clarify any restrictions on property use and ownership. Same with Endowments.***

***SURVEY/APPRAISAL: Clarify property in question and estimate value.***

***CONTRACTS: Clarify with presbytery legal counsel noting all liabilities and properly recording any presbytery interest.***

***RECORDS: Provide all church records to Presbytery.***

***SIGN DOCUMENTS: Upon verification, sign as directed by Presbytery or Administrative Commission.***